



Soco Transmission <[socotransmission@gmail.com](mailto:socotransmission@gmail.com)>

### New Comment Submission

EDAW Engage <[info@engage.edaw.com](mailto:info@engage.edaw.com)> Sun, Sep 6, 2009 at 4:37 PM  
To: [info@socotransmission.com](mailto:info@socotransmission.com), [dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov), [douglas.johnston@aecocom.com](mailto:douglas.johnston@aecocom.com)

A new comment has been submitted at [socotransmission.com](http://socotransmission.com).

#### COMMENT

Meeting Attended:  
Alamosa Scoping Meeting

Important Issues:  
Land Use (Agriculture, Residential, Recreation), Water Resources (Floodplains, River Crossings),  
Historic and Cultural Sites, Radio or Television Interference, Noise, Health and Safety, Project  
Purpose and Need, Biological Resources, Visual / Aesthetic Resources, Other, Proximity to  
Residences  
OTHER: Industrial Solar Development

Property Uses:

#### Comment:

The purpose of the project is flawed because:

- B-002-001** | A. it fails to give serious consideration to more cost and time effective alternatives to meet SLV's peak energy needs and provide security and redundancy such as:(1) energy efficiency;
- B-002-002** | (2) the potential to meet the SLV's actual or projected peak electricity needs through local solar energy generation (SunEdison is expanding to 25MW, OptiSolar is proposing 150 MW, Stirling Energy 200 MW, etc.);(3) progressive DG incentives, implementation of HB1350 and other similar programs;
- B-002-003** | B. it's based on incomplete, inadequate or no data: (1) projected demand increases are arbitrary, not supported by verifiable data and contradict Tri-state's own projections that "demand in the SLV has been steady since 1995";
- B-002-004** | (2) potential power outage risks are speculative, not supported by historical data or realistic risk analysis;
- B-002-005** | C. It includes no cost/benefit analysis or estimates of ratepayer/taxpayer costs;
- B-002-006** | D. It does not consider the long-term, cumulative impacts of the industrial solar development that the line will catalyze on the communities, economies and environment of the SLV;
- B-002-006** | (8) It does not consider the potential of new smart-grid technologies to stabilize energy flows.

**B-002-007** | I have other concerns but these are the most pressing. In conclusion, long-distance transmission of electricity produced from remotely sited industrial-scale facilities is inefficient, costly and a tremendous waste of federal and ratepayer resources. I urge Tristate and Xcel to seriously rethink your approach to renewable energy development and begin to partner with your Rural Cooperatives, state and local governments and communities to incentivize and rapidly deploy medium and small scale distributed generation at the point of use. Phase out dirty energy on the existing transmission infrastructure no new transmission infrastructure is needed.  
Thank you for considering my comments.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

<http://mail.google.com/mail/?ui=2&ik=760671f559&view=pt&search=inbox&msg=...> 9/8/2009

### **B-002-001: Project Alternatives (In Review)**

Your email/letter/comment from has been received and your comment noted. A range of reasonable project alternatives and mitigation measures including the no action alternative will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

### **B-002-002: Purpose and Need (In Review)**

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Project purpose and need will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

### **B-002-003: Purpose and Need (In Review)**

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Project purpose and need will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

### **B-002-004: Purpose and Need (In Review)**

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Project purpose and need will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

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**B-002-005: Cumulative Impacts (In Review)**

Your email/letter/comment card has been received and your comment noted. Potential cumulative impacts and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

**B-002-006: Project Alternatives (In Review)**

Your email/letter/comment from has been received and your comment noted. A range of reasonable project alternatives and mitigation measures including the no action alternative will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

**B-002-007: Project Alternatives (In Review)**

Your email/letter/comment from has been received and your comment noted. A range of reasonable project alternatives and mitigation measures including the no action alternative will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.